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7,000 on Fidel Fair Play Roll, Senators Told

By PAUL HEALY

Washington, May 16 (News Bureau). — The pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee said today it has 7,000 members in 23 adult chapters and 37 university chapters across the U. S.

Locations of the chapters were furnished to the Senate Internal Security subcommittee by Richard Gibson, temporary executive secretary of the committee, whose main office is at 799 Broadway, New York.

Gibson, 30, a Negro, continually questioned the "relevancy" of the probers' questions about the committee's finances and personnel.

Red Link Is Seen

Subcommittee counsel Jay G. Sourwine finally told him: "There is evidence . . . that (the committee) is a foreign-sponsored propaganda organization supported and encouraged by the Communist Party of the U.S."

Gibson testified today that his group has not registered at the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. He previously denied under oath that he is a Communist.

Gibson had been suspened to bring with him all the committee's records, but he insisted all he could supply was a piece of paper listing its adult and student chapters.

Five in N. Y. Area

The universities and colleges listed on the paper as having chapters included Columbia, City College of New York, Queens, Brooklyn, Yale and Harvard.

The subcommittee disclosed, to Gibson's amazement, that Robert Taber, the executive secretary of the committee and now in Cuba, served a prison sentence in Ohio in 1939-40 for armed robbery, kidnaping and auto larceny, according to the FBI fingerprint file.

The probers also asked Gibson why Taber, a former writer for the Columbia Broadcasting System, withdrew $19,000 from the Fair Play account at the Chase Manhattan Bank and took it to Cuba with him last December. Gibson said this way to pay for a tour of Cuba for 340 persons provided by the committee.

Didn't Ask Questions

Gibson tertified that he did not know the source of fifty-five $100 bills deposited to the committee's account. He explained that while he made deposits and signed withdrawal checks, he made it a point never to ask where the contributions came from.

"Was that done so a Congressional committee or a law enforcement agency could not force you to tell them the source of the funds?" asked Sen. Kenneth Keating (R-N.Y.).

"Yes," Gibson replied, "and to protect the persons involved from attack and harassment."

Gibson said, however, he knew one windfall came from the sale of 500 tickets at $7.50 apiece for